

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated peptide consisting of any one of the following amino acid sequence (A) to (C): [[.]]
(A) the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2;
(B) an amino acid sequence wherein one to five ~~or a few~~ amino acids are deleted, substituted or added in the sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2, wherein a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence has a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity;
(C) an amino acid sequence having [[60%]] 80% or more homology with the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2, wherein a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence has a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity.
2. (Currently amended) An isolated peptide generated from the following amino acid sequence (A) or (B) as a result of further cleavage or modification by a processing enzyme and having a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity: [[.]]
(A) the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2;
(B) an amino acid sequence wherein one to five ~~or a few~~ amino acids are deleted, substituted or added in the sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2, wherein a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence has a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity.
3. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA of any one of the following (A) to (F): [[.]]
(A) a DNA encoding a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2;
(B) a DNA encoding a peptide consisting of an amino acid sequence wherein one to five ~~or a few~~ amino acids are deleted, substituted, or added in the sequence shown by SEQ ID

- No: 2, and having a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity;
- (C) a DNA encoding a peptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having ~~[[60%]]~~ 80% or more homology with the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2, and having a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity;
- (D) a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 1;
- (E) a DNA encoding a peptide consisting of a nucleotide sequence wherein one to five ~~or a few~~ nucleotides are deleted, substituted or added in the sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 1, and having a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity;
- (F) a DNA that hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 1 under a stringent condition, and encoding a peptide having a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity, wherein the stringent condition comprises hybridizing at 65 °C in the presence of 0.7 to 1.0 M NaCl, and washing with a 0.1 to 2-fold SSC solution (one-fold concentration SSC solution is composed of 150 mM sodium chloride and 15 mM sodium citrate) under a condition of 65 °C.
4. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA encoding a peptide generated from the following amino acid sequence (A) or (B) as a result of further cleavage or modification by a processing enzyme and having a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity:
- (A) the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2.
- (B) an amino acid sequence wherein one to five ~~or a few~~ amino acids are deleted, substituted or added in the sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2, wherein a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence has a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity.
5. (Original) A fusion peptide wherein the peptide according to claim 1 or 2 is bound with a marker protein and/or peptide tag.
6. (Currently amended) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA according to claim 3, wherein the recombinant vector can express the peptide ~~according to claim 1~~ consisting of any one of the following amino acid sequence (A) to (C):
- (A) the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2;
- (B) an amino acid sequence wherein one to five amino acids are deleted, substituted or

- added in the sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2, wherein a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence has a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity;
(C) an amino acid sequence having 80% or more homology with the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID No: 2, wherein a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence has a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity.
7. (Currently amended) A recombinant vector comprising ~~[[the]]~~ a DNA encoding a peptide according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 2, wherein the recombinant vector can express ~~[[the]]~~ said peptide according to claim 2.
8. (Currently amended) A transformant wherein the recombinant vector according to claim 6 is introduced, which expresses the peptide consisting of any one of the amino acid sequence (A) to (C) according to claim 1.
9. (Currently amended) A transformant wherein the recombinant vector according to claim 7 is introduced, which expresses the peptide generated from the amino acid sequence (A) or (B) as a result of further cleavage or modification by a processing enzyme and having a cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity according to claim 2.
10. (Withdrawn) An antibody that can recognize specifically the peptide according to claim 1 or 2.
11. (Withdrawn) The antibody according to claim 10 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
12. (Currently amended) A method for screening a cardioinhibitory factor or ~~[[32]]~~ hypotensive factor, comprising the steps of administering the peptide according to claim 1 or 2 and a test substance to a non-human test animal, ~~[[and]]~~ measuring/estimating a level of cardioinhibitory activity or hypotensive activity, and estimating the test substance as a cardioinhibitory factor in case that cardioinhibitory activity is higher when administering said peptide and said test substance than when administering said peptide only, or estimating the test substance as a hypotensive factor in case that hypotensive

activity is higher when administering said peptide and said test substance than when administering said peptide only.

13. (Currently amended) A method for screening an inhibitor of cardioinhibitory activity or an inhibitor of hypotensive activity, comprising the steps of administering the peptide according to claim 1 or 2 and a test substance to a non-human test animal, [[and]] measuring/estimating a level of cardioinhibitory or hypotensive activity, and estimating the test substance as an inhibitor of cardioinhibitory activity in case that cardioinhibitory activity is lower when administering said peptide and said test substance than when administering said peptide only, or estimating the test substance as an inhibitor of hypotensive activity in case that hypotensive activity is lower when administering said peptide and said test substance than when administering said peptide only.
14. (Original) A cardioinhibitory/hypotensive agent comprising the peptide according to claim 1 or 2 as an active ingredient.
15. (Withdrawn) A method for preventing/treating diseases which necessitate cardioinhibitory/hypotensive activity, wherein the cardioinhibitory/hypotensive agent according to claim 14 is administered.